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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/553,007	08/07/2006	Claude Mialhe	0518-1161	1299
466	7590	10/29/2009		
YOUNG & THOMPSON 209 Madison Street Suite 500 Alexandria, VA 22314			EXAMINER	
			OU, JING RUI	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3773	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
10/29/2009	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

DocketingDept@young-thompson.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/553,007	Applicant(s) MIALHE, CLAUDE
	Examiner JING OU	Art Unit 3773

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2009.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08e)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the amendment filed 07/30/2009. Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1 and 17 are independent. Claim 17 is newly added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The recitations "upon contact with internal nose (14), the auto-expandable element (24) expands further in the radial direction to open out the segments (15a, 15b, 15c, 15d)" in Claim 1 and "upon contact with the segments (15a, 15b, 15c, 15d) with freedom of movement, the auto-expandable element (24) expands further in the radial direction and opens out the segments (15a, 15b, 15c, 15d)" in Claim 17 do not have sufficient support in the original disclosure. The original disclosure does not explicitly disclose that it is the expansion of the auto-expandable element that opens out the nose segments. The nose segments are open out because the auto-expandable element is pressed against it while the auto-expandable element is moving distally out of the nose.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindenbergs et al (US Pat. No.: 5,433,723) in view of Martinez et al (US Pat. No.: 5,593,412).

In regard to Claims 1-17, Lindenbergs et al discloses an implant delivery system, comprising: a vessel dilation device (Fig. 1) with an outer envelope (2); an implant (1), the implant includes an auto-expandable element (the distal end of the endoprosthesis 1, Col. 4, lines 25-29) which presses against the internal wall of the outer envelope (Fig. 1); means of translation, the means of translation include an inner sheath (3); the implant includes a second, hollow expandable element (the proximal end of the endoprosthesis 1) and a hollow intermediate section (the intermediate section of the endoprosthesis 1 is deformable be twisting since it is an expandable stent); a grip (5)

that is an integral part of the outer envelope; a grip (6) that is an integral part of the inner sheath, a removable spacer (9), a plunger (counter holder, Col. 5, lines 6-8), a grip (12) that is an integral part of the plunger, means (the handle near 12 can be used to adjust the angle of the inner sheath, Fig. 6) of adjusting the angle of the inner sheath, and a central channel (Fig. 1) along the line of the outer envelope.

Garza et al does not appear to disclose that the outer envelope has a tapered end piece and detailed structures of the end piece.

However, Martinez et al explicitly discloses an implant delivery system, comprising of an outer envelope (sheath, 18, Fig. 1) having a tapered end piece (distal end portion 32 is tapered, Fig. 1) at the distal end of the outer envelope and an implant have expandable portion (stent, Fig. 10) that is pressed against the sheath and is in contact with the internal wall of a nose, whereby the end piece consists of the nose (the tapered distal end portion 32 is nose, Fig. 1) and means for opening the nose, consisting of at least two longitudinal slots (weakened areas, 41-45, Fig. 2A) which divide the nose into several segments (sections, 51-55, Fig. 2A), nose segments are joined as required along the slots when the nose is closed (Fig. 2A, the nose segments are joint by connector as shown in Fig. 2A); temporary connector by slots between segments (Fig. 2A, the nose segments are joint by connector as shown in Fig. 2A); and the nose includes a central residual passage (central opening, 50, Fig. 2A).

Lindenberg et al and Martinez et al are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, implant delivery system.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Lindenberg et al and Martinez et al before him or her, to modify the implant delivery system of Lindenberg et al to include an outer envelope having a tapered end piece and detailed structures of the end piece as taught by Martinez et al.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to protect the implant from premature deployment and control the deployment of the implant. Until the delivery device reaches a target site, the distal end portion of the sheath is softened by exposing to a warm, physiologically compatible liquid and opened by the pushing force of the implant and the introducer, thereby to allow for retraction of the sheath and deployment of the implant (Martinez et al, Col. 3, lines 24-42). Applicant should have noted that the tapered end piece is old and well-known in the art. Furthermore, it is old and well-known that the nose includes a shape memory, which would facilitate the withdrawn of the delivery system from body or enable insertion of another implant without withdrawing the sheath out of the body. In addition, duplication of the essential working parts of a device such as the grips and the spacer involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v Bemis Co., 193 USPQ 8*

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Martinez et al with Lindenberg et al to obtain the invention as specified in the instant claims.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JING OU whose telephone number is (571)270-5036. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30am - 5:00pm, Alternative Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Uyen (Jackie) T Ho can be reached on (571)272-4696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3773

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JO

/(Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3773